

NY T 531.2
F 771

The Founding of Pennsylvania

1638-1938



Peter
1580

Minuit
1638

and the good ship
Kalmar Nyckel



Johan
Printz

1592

1663

Outline of Pageant
Celebrating the 300th Anniversary

P 38.7
5.4

The Founding of Pennsylvania

Historic Background

For a Pageant with Prologue, Main Scene and Epilogue

Prepared by

PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM EXTENSION PROJECT

of

THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

of

PENNSYLVANIA

Distributed by

THE PENNSYLVANIA 300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION

Honorary Chairmen

HON. GEORGE H. EARLE

Governor of Pennsylvania

JOHN W. KEPHART

Chief Justice

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

JOSEPH F. GUFFEY

United States Senator

Executive Committee

FRANK W. MELVIN

Chairman

KARL E. LINDGREN

Vice-Chairman

NICHOLAS BIDDLE

WILL JEWETT

Director

Cover Design and Costume studies by Artists of the Philadelphia Museum Extension Project
Historical Data and Speeches based on Historical Records of the State of Pennsylvania



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

For a Pageant with Prologue, Main Scene and Epilogue

PROLOGUE

Tableau 1. King Gustavus Adolphus and Wm. Usselinx—Nov. 1624.

The figure of a Norseman, Spirit of Romance and Adventure, tells of Wm. Usselinx who had envisioned a great trading company whose field was the entire world; how he had been bitterly disappointed in his first attempt, the Dutch West India Company, and was seeking some other nation as sponsor for his project.

Of that heroic figure, Sweden's young warrior-king, Gustavus Adolphus, who was startling all Europe with his brilliant military genius.

Of how these two far-sighted visioners met one autumn in Gothenburg. Usselinx' eloquence and intense enthusiasm held the king spellbound. For six hours they talked of new worlds to conquer commercially, and as they left the palace, Usselinx believed that at last his dream would be realized—the great king, embodiment of the spirit of romance and adventure of the Norsemen, was his patron and staunch supporter. That same spirit which, six hundred years earlier, had led the Vikings across the ocean to America, was with him now, protecting him and urging on to new worlds.

Tableau 2. Oxenstierna, Blommaert and Minuit—1636.

Time has passed—nearly twelve years. The Spirit, still in Viking guise, urges on to other lands. He tells of how the great king had fought his last battle and embarked on the "Great Journey." In his stead, however, stands a figure drawn with a strong hand and a large brush. Axel Oxenstierna, Royal Chancellor of Sweden and virtual ruler of the land during the Child-

Queen's minority, carries on Gustavus' ideals. Sweden must assume her rightful place among the nations of Europe. Intrinsically not a great producer, she cannot compete along those lines, but by enterprise in international commerce she could establish herself. A great merchant-marine supported by a powerful navy would make her name a by-word in the farthest corners of the earth.

Sweden's greatest asset had been her natural resources of copper. For centuries she had practically supplied Europe's needs, maintaining a monopoly in that commodity. Now, however, new markets were imperative.

Two other figures join Oxenstierna—Samuel Blommaert of Amsterdam, a power in the world of international commerce and the master-mind of the metal-trade field; and another Dutchman, Peter Minuit, ex-governor of New Netherland, widely experienced over-seas and particularly famous for his purchase of Manhattan Island. Over these three, Oxenstierna, Blommaert and Minuit, as they plan great trading companies, now broods the Norseman, Spirit of Romance and Adventure.

Tableau 3. Queen Christina and Johan Printz—July, 1642.

Six more years had lapsed. The Norseman tells of their happenings:

How Oxenstierna and Blommaert had placed Minuit in charge of an expedition financed by the New Sweden Company.

How in the Kalmar Nyckel, accompanied by the cruiser Fogel Grip, Minuit had sailed up the Delaware (then the South River), establishing a settlement, "Fort Christina," on April 8, 1638 and then was lost at sea on his homeward voyage.

He then shows a new figure—Johan Printz, the soldier. Printz had been selected by the Company and approved by the government as Governor of New Sweden. In keeping with the dignity of that office he is dubbed knight. In contrast to Printz' enormous bulk, the sixteen year old Queen, Christina, seems almost too frail to give the accolade.

MAIN SCENE

Flag Raising at Tinicum Island

Summer, 1643.

Shortly after his investment as governor, Col. Johan Printz sails to take up the duties of his office. Arriving on the Delaware, he considers Fort Christina unsuitable as seat of government of the Province of New Sweden. Teneko (now Tinicum Island), 15 miles farther up the South River, offers a suitable site, and one of his first tasks is the transfer of the capital. For months there has been great building activity but now several pretentious buildings have arisen on the Island and at last the largest of these, Printzhof, is ready for occupancy as the Governmental Mansion. To fittingly celebrate the event a special holiday has been declared and the settlers have gathered here from their outlying homesteads. Everywhere is merriment mixed with admiration and wonder at the size and magnificence of the new buildings. The great mansion had two full stories below the gabled roof! Built of large logs, square hewn, its brick chimneys and windows of actual glass gave it a palatial aspect. Not far away, commanding the river with four brass cannon, stood the fort with its massive walls of great hemlock beams. As protection on the land-side, rose the great combined storehouse and block-house. In addition to all this, a garden with fruit trees and summer houses surrounded the Mansion. Small wonder the settlers were agape with excitement when, to patriotic songs and with salute from the Fort's cannon, the Royal Standard of Sweden was raised to the peak and floated over the seat of government of the Province of New Sweden.

This was but the beginning of festivities, for the Chiefs of the neighboring Indian tribes had come in a delegation to pass the pipe of peace

and renew treaties of friendship. The settlers in their turn provided gifts and lavish entertainment. Agreements about land purchases were entered into and bargaining for furs, Indian corn and supplies was in order.

After the long summer twilight, gayety continued under flaming torches. There were a few fiddlers to play on hard-worn instruments the folk tunes for their peasant dances. Day-break was near when the last canoe floated off and the last song of the far "Home Land" died away down the river.

EPILOGUE

Nearly forty years have passed. Instead of the Norseman a new figure stands in his place. To all outward appearance it is the familiar figure of "Liberty," but from something in the mien and in the voice we know at once it is the same Spirit of Romance and Adventure. That Spirit which, whether under the horned helmet of a Viking or the simple "Liberty-cap," has been the demi-urge in the development of our country.

During those forty years it has inspired and watched over many figures and events. It tells of how the troubled political affairs of Europe had their reflections in the budding colonies across the ocean.

Of how, after about ten years under Printz as governor, the colony went through troublous times. Through the vicissitudes of Dutch and English rule, the Swedes, however, had remained a steadfast group.

Finally comes the long hoped-for relief in the figure of Wm. Penn, the herald of progress and security. As governor, he has been instructed to name his immense domain of virgin forests, "Pennsylvania," or "Penn's Woods," which title it has borne ever since. He is about to convoke his first Assembly at the settlement then called Upland. To commemorate this event, he renames the place "Chester" in honor of his friend and faithful companion, Pearson, whose home had been in Chester, England.

Then pass in retrospect all the other great figures of the founding of this State. For the future we have still that Spirit of Romance and Adventure in the guise of Liberty or *America*.

THE FOUNDING OF PENNSYLVANIA

Characters and Scene Settings

PROLOGUE

(in three parts)

Norseman in Prow of Ship (optional). Vast Map of America and Sweden in Background. Throne Bearing Swedish Coat of Arms.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Tableau 1
(Time 1624)

NORSEMAN—(Announcer)
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS—King of Sweden
WILLEM USSELINX—Founder of the Dutch West India Company
MEMBERS OF SWEDISH COURT
BUGLERS—To announce opening of the pageant

Tableau 2
(Time 1636 to 1638)

AXEL OXENSTIERNA—Royal Chancellor of Sweden
SAMUEL BLOMMAERT—An Amsterdam Merchant
PETER MINUIT—Leader of the first Swedish Expedition to America
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Tableau 3
(Time 1642)

QUEEN CHRISTINA—Daughter of Adolphus and successor to the throne, now sixteen years of age
JOHAN PRINTZ—A Colonel of Cavalry, selected to become Governor of New Sweden
CHANCELLOR OXENSTIERNA—Virtual ruler of Sweden
COURT ATTENDANTS AND SOLDIERS

MAIN SCENE

On Tinicum Island in front of Printz Hall

Background of Cardboard Drawing of Entrance to Printz Hall (see sketch).

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

JOHAN PRINTZ—Now in America as Governor of New Sweden

MANS KLING—Lieutenant of Printz

REV. JOHAN CAMPANIUS—Clergyman to New Sweden

JANSEN VAN ILPENDAM—Dutch Commissary at Fort Nassau

REV. REORUS TORKILLIUS—Minister already in New Sweden

HERR CHRISTOFFER—Minister already in New Sweden

HANS JANEKE—Barber-Surgeon or Doctor of those times

MARIA VON LINNESTAU—Wife of Johan Printz

GUSTAF PRINTZ	} Children of Johan Printz. Armegot and Gustaf were in their "teens" and were the eldest.
ARMEGOT PRINTZ	
CATHARINA PRINTZ	
CHRISTINA PRINTZ	
ELSA PRINTZ	
GUNILLA PRINTZ	

MINQUAS AND DELAWARE INDIANS

SWEDISH AND DUTCH SETTLERS

EPILOGUE

Spirit of Adventure, garbed as Liberty; in background is large map of the lower Delaware showing Swedish Settlements and Provincial Pennsylvania.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

WM. PENN—Quaker and founder of Penna.

PEARSON—Friend of Penn

WELSH SETTLERS

GERMAN SETTLERS

ENTIRE CAST OF HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

THE FOUNDING OF PENNSYLVANIA

Words and Action for the Pageant

PROLOGUE

Tableau I

(The stage is bare except for a chair in the center to represent the throne of Sweden. A fanfare of trumpets is heard heralding the entrance of a Viking warrior. He pauses at one side of the stage, holds out his hand, declaiming.)

Viking:

Hear me, friends and kind listeners, I am the spirit of the ancient Swedes. I was on many a Viking ship that earned the fear and respect of all Europe. Our fearless soldiers were the first to set foot on the Western continent. Our brave soldiers fought for thirty years in every country in northern Europe with great success. Under our heroic king, Gustavus Adolphus, we were victorious everywhere. All hail the good and great king, Gustavus Adolphus, whose glory was great and his good deeds without number.

Hear me now of the story of Adolphus and the Antwerp merchant, Willem Usselinx.

(He lowers his voice.)

It was in the time of much trading and wealth in Spain, Portugal, England and Holland. The tales of the new commercial spirit that had taken hold in other parts of Europe found many interested listeners in Sweden. Willem Usselinx, full of plans for trade in America and meeting with no success in Holland, sought a hearing with King Gustavus, who had just signed a treaty of peace with Poland. The king and the merchant gravely discussed the plan for six long hours. The project met with the approval of Gustavus and he gave him a commission to establish a "General Trading Company for Asia, Africa, America and Magellanica," thereafter called the "South Company." The company's charter gave it a monopoly of trading all over the world. It was to trade and also to colonize and spread the gospel among uncivilized people.

(From the side opposite to the Viking enter two haut-boys. They assume positions on either side of the throne, raise their trumpets and sound them as Gustavus and his court enter in colorful procession.)

The king sits on the throne as his court take places on either side of the throne. Enter, from the Viking's side, Willem Usselinx carrying several scrolls which he is reading to himself. He looks up, sees the king, bows. Gustavus beckons to him, Willem approaches the throne, bows again, and shows him an unrolled scroll. The king pores over the scrolls, occasionally showing passages to Usselinx and members of the court. Then Gustavus nods in approval, signs a scroll, hands it to his chancellor, Axel Gustafsson Oxenstierna, who also signs it and then returns it to Usselinx. The merchant bows gratefully and goes out. Exit King and Court.)

The company failed to raise enough money to do its work and in the meantime Sweden became involved in another war. Usselinx returned to Holland; his work was done but it had not been in vain. Others saw the splendor of Usselinx' vision and saw the value of overseas enterprise. This time the power and the wealth of the company were great enough to carry out its plans.

Tableau II

The Viking:

The guiding spirit of the new organization was Axel Oxenstierna, the greatest statesman in the history of Sweden. He was prime minister to Gustavus and also to his daughter and successor to the throne of Sweden, Queen Christina. With him were Samuel Blommaert and Peter Minuit, both formerly of the Dutch West India Company, which they had both helped much. These men founded the New Sweden Company, with exclusive rights to trade on the Delaware River for twenty years. Minuit was chief of the first expedition. After some difficulties the company sent two vessels, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip, to the new world.

(Enter Oxenstierna, Blommaert and Minuit with scrolls. They look at each other's scrolls, all sign one scroll and place their hands on it solemnly. Minuit, carrying a small ship model, goes to one side of the stage, holds the ship aloft and beckons to several people, off stage. Enter soldiers and sailors who gather around Minuit. They are to accompany him to New Sweden. They then follow Minuit off stage as Blommaert and Oxenstierna exit in the opposite direction. The Viking continues.)

After a journey of two and a half months they sailed up the Delaware River, in early April, 1638.

The first years were full of hardships, and the life of the colony was threatened many times. Five years after the first voyage Johan Printz, lieutenant-colonel and knight, was appointed governor of the colony.

The great Gustavus had been killed on the field of battle and his daughter, the young Queen Christina, now sits on the throne. Oxenstierna is regent until she comes of age. She is a bright young lady, spending much of her time conversing with philosophers and scientists. She is well-read and the possessor of a fine library. She is also fond of music and dancing. All hail Queen Christina.

Tableau III

(Enter the two hautboys; they stop beside the throne and sound their trumpets. Queen Christina, carrying a manuscript, followed by her ladies in waiting and courtiers, march to the throne. She sits down and the court take their places on either side of the chair. Enter Oxenstierna carrying a scroll, followed by the great figure of Johan Printz. They approach the Queen, bowing. Oxenstierna hands her the scroll which she signs and holds out to Printz.)

Queen Christina:

Noble and high-born knight, I instruct you to insure the defence of New Sweden against "all violence and foreign attachments, to preserve, above all, that country in good safe hands. It rests with you to preserve the amity, good neighborhood and correspondence with foreigners, with those who rely upon your administration, and the natives. You will render justice without distinction so no one may be injured, and if any person misbehave grossly that person be punished in a convenient manner.

"All controversies will be decided according to the laws, customs and usages of Sweden, and in all other things we will adopt the laudable manners and customs of the Kingdom of Sweden. May you bring honor to your country and Queen as Governor of New Sweden. God be with you and speed your voyage."

(She hands the scroll to Printz. He accepts the commission and bows. The trumpets sound and the Queen exits followed by her court. As Printz leaves stage in opposite direction the Viking salutes him with his sword, declaiming.)

Viking:

Greetings to His Excellency, the noble and well-born Johan Printz, Her Majesty's Governor of New Sweden, who will make the first permanent settlement in what is now Pennsylvania. Hail to the Governor.

(He follows Printz off stage.)

End of Prologue.

MAIN SCENE

(Before Printz' newly erected home, Printz Hall, at Teneko (Tinicum Island). In the background, a drawing of a two-story log building. Printz reads from a paper to a group gathered for the festivities. There are Swedish officers, clergymen, settlers, Dutch settlers, Indians, etc. A roll of drums precedes Printz's speech.)

Governor Printz:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Her Royal Highness, our most gracious Queen, Christina, ruler of the Swedes, Goths and Wends; and by the desires of the Right Honorable Lords of the New Sweden Company, greetings to you, worthy sons and daughters of Sweden, greetings to you, our neighbors.

This occasion of the dedication of our new administrative stronghold brings to us a glorious sight of the growth of our New Sweden, a province that will bring glory to the fatherland across the sea. We have established a new colony where everyone is at work. We are proud of our work in "this remarkably beautiful country, with all the glories that a person can wish on earth and a pity and a regret that all its inhabitants are not true Christians. It is adorned by all kinds of fruit-bearing trees. The soil is suitable for planting and sowing, and with the help of Her Majesty this country will be a most desirable place to live in." We can and will be self sustaining.

(He signals to a soldier who goes off stage.)

Let us raise the Royal Standard as a sign for a most glorious future.

(All remove their hats and point them at the flag, off stage, as a cannon booms twice. This is the Swedish salute. As the last boom of the cannon fades two groups of Indians approach the Governor. They carry gifts and pipes of peace. The chiefs of each group speak in turn.)

First Chief:

O great white chief, on behalf of my council of old and wise men, I greet you in your new home. Our solemn conclave recognizes the Swedes as true friends and honest. The Minqua tribe salutes you and offers to you this wampum, tobacco and the pipe of peace. May the great Spirit be kind to you and keep us in peace forever.

Second Chief:

In the name of the great Delaware nation of Indians I come to continue our peaceful dealings with the Swedish people. We respect your subjects as abiding by their word as no other white men do. We bring our tokens of friendship and the pipe of peace in good will.

(Printz holds out a tea-kettle as a present and the two chiefs struggle for the utensil. Printz separates the two and hands each of them a kettle.)

Governor Printz:

Welcome to our new home, O great chiefs and neighbors, with whom we are at peace. May you act respectfully and kindly to each other as you do toward us. May no war cry ever disturb our peaceful pursuits and God grant that our relations forever be as they are this day.

(The pipe of peace is again passed. All leave the stage in groups.)

EPILOGUE

(Enter an allegorical figure of Liberty. A Swedish, a Dutch, a Welsh and a German colonist come on stage as each is mentioned. Then William Penn, followed by his friend, Pearson, enters. Liberty speaks.)

Liberty:

Forty years have passed since Johan Printz moved to Tinicum Island. Sweden, busy with its problems at home, was unable to support its overseas colony. This gave the Dutch an opportunity to press their claims to the Delaware River colonies and overcome the small band of Swedes. Many of them returned to Sweden but the remainder helped in the development of a great state. The English succeeded the Dutch as masters, and a band of Welsh immigrants came to till the soil and help in the growth of the colony.

(The assembled colonists speak in turn.)

The Swede:

We called our settlement Upland after the Swedish city which was our home.

The Dutchman:

The river Schuylkill was named by our Dutch settlers.

The Welshman:

Many cities still have the Welsh names we gave them.

Bryn Mawr, Merion, and Cynwyd are three.

The German:

Our German immigrants first settled in Germantown.

Liberty:

Then came those illustrious seekers of liberty, the Quakers. They brought with them fond memories of their native land and expressed their remembrance in bringing old English names to the Swedish and Dutch settlements.

(Enter Pearson, a Quaker.)

Pearson:

I am a Friend, Pearson by name, beloved friend of William Penn. The town of Upland was renamed Chester after my home in the old English city of that name.

Liberty:

The Swedes were but a few simple people in tiny settlements, yet they left their mark in the history of our country. Their peaceful and kind treatment of the Indians was unequalled in the long story of conflict in the colonies. William Penn had a brilliant example to follow in his treaty with the red men.

(Enter William Penn with a scroll. All the colonists place their hands on the scroll.)

The coming of Penn brought new life and vigor to the colony. Thanks to the spirit of liberty, freedom, and brotherly love the Swedes, Dutch, Welsh, English and Germans lived peacefully side by side as the country grew into the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Penn's woodland was a shining beacon of liberty and tolerance of religious worship for the entire world to follow. The Swedes and the Quakers, all hail the builders of our great state.

(All the characters from the prior scenes march on stage carrying a large American flag. They all sing "America" as a finale.)

End.

